

# A Journey Into the Lives of People

## A Dogsled Ride Leads To St. Andrew's Church

Editor's Note: Among the greatest contributors to the stability and the cultural enrichment of a community are the churches and the pastors of that community. As a means of enabling our readers to become better acquainted with those fine men who serve the spiritual needs of the citizens of Torrance, The Press is publishing a Sunday series which we call "Know Your Pastor." The first of the series follows. Today's pastor is Rev. Hugh Percy, of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

The spiritual aspirations of a man who becomes a clergyman are powerful and impelling forces which send him on a journey into the lives of his fellow men and women, sharing their innermost thoughts, their hopes as well as their fears, as they seek the strength and the inspiration that only faith can bring to the human mind.

In a sense, that long journey began in earnest for Father Hugh Percy when he presented his new bride with a wedding gift — a ride on a dog sled over five miles of trails in the north country of Canada around Wekush Lake.

Today, far to the south, in our burgeoning community of Torrance that journey continues to stretch into a future that is bright with promise, both to Fr. Percy and to his parishioners.

Growth is the keynote of our community of Torrance, and Fr. Percy and the members of his church, St. Andrew's Episcopal, daily stand at the same crossroads of growth which intersects the lives of each citizen of our city.

### 168 WORSHIPPERS

When Fr. Percy and his family arrived amongst us in 1955, the church held only 168 worshippers.

By 1957, the old walls had disappeared to be replaced by new ones which doubled that 1955 capacity of 168.

During the next three years, the church will again be doubled, with the addition also of a chapel, an office, and educational facilities.

To Fr. Percy, it is quite natural for the churches to be sought for spiritual guidance by those 13 people who each day are filling new homes in Torrance, crowding our shopping centers, and forcing the expansion of our school system.

Among those seeking spiritual guidance from Fr. Percy are those young people who themselves feel an urge to find their vocational future in the church.

"Does a man know that he is destined to serve from birth," some ask. Others pose this question: "Is there an age when you know for certain of the calling?"

### PERIOD OF STRAYING

Fr. Percy says he usually replies that he knew at an early age, when he was in the sixth grade. However, he also adds, that although he first felt the urge while at such an early age, he knew a period of "straying."

As a young boy, Fr. Percy had been inspired and motivated toward the clergy by his own pastor, but later decided that he would prefer to study interiors and thus began the study of art in Chicago which lasted for three years.

Then, a visit with a Scottish pastor in Saskatchewan changed his mind about the material arts and he entered the ministry to pursue the art of administering to the spiritual needs of others.

"Once you feel the call," Fr. Percy says today. "It is there. It is a call, and you cannot change that call."

The need for the church is strong in the minds of people today, Fr. Percy finds. "In these days of feverish seeking for peace of mind in the midst of our 'busyness,'" says Fr. Percy, "we in the Church feel that the channel of God's peace to heal the troubled mind and body can be found."

### RESTORE THE SPIRITS

The church offers a means of restoring the spirit. As Fr. Percy puts it, "these days the right kind of 'recreation' of the spirit can mean so much. In the true sense of that word, 'recreation,' we need to take time regularly each week to find rest in the Lord by turning to him and away from ourselves."

It is there, says Fr. Percy, that "we find the renewal and strengthening of those spiritual resources which are so easily dissipated in the ordinary course of daily living."

Fr. Percy has pioneered in many ideas which he has



REV. HUGH PERCY

contributed to his field. For instance, while still serving in his native Canada, Fr. Percy wrote a series of articles on the importance of joint physician-pastor counseling methods which created much attention throughout Canada and the United States, including, of course, the Los Angeles area.

Local Episcopal Church leaders, recognizing the merit of Fr. Percy's new ideas and searching for a man to fill the pastorate of St. Andrew's got in touch with Fr. Percy.

"Although I had never considered coming to the United States before, I am extremely pleased with my calling here," says Fr. Percy.

### THE HOLYLAND

The parishioners whom Fr. Percy serves here also found themselves pleased with his calling here and they presented him with a two-month trip to the Holy Land in 1961 in appreciation of his service, and in recognition of the 25th anniversary of Fr. Percy's ministry.

Included were visits to Rome, Egypt, Jerusalem and Beirut.

Fr. Percy began his journey among the lives of those he serves in 1935 at a parish in Elgin, Manitoba, Canada after graduation from St. John's College in Winnipeg.

Fr. Percy remained in Elgin for two years. In 1938 he married and took his wife with him in his calling of a travelling missionary in the Hudson Bay territory. The couple's first home was a log cabin on Wekush Lake.

Their parishioners included miners, trappers, fishermen, and Indians for the next years.

Amidst these rustic surroundings, the means of transportation included the age-old standbys of the north, the dogsled and the canoe, as well as the modern wonder, the airplane.

### A DOGSLED RIDE

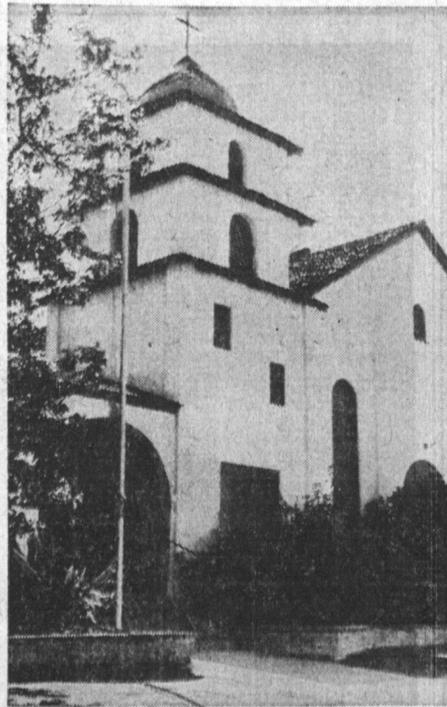
It was there, nearly 25 years ago, that Fr. Percy took his bride in a ride on a dogsled as a wedding gift.

Soon after, Fr. Percy entered the Canadian Army as a chaplain of the Calgary Highlanders, serving three years in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany.

Upon his return, Fr. Percy began a ten-year stay as rector of St. Paul's Church in Winnipeg.

In early life, Fr. Percy was a baseball and a hockey star and he remains active today, golfing once a week as part of a regular four-some.

The Percys have two children. The youngest, Timothy Percy, 10, is a fourth grader at Greenwood who shares his father's fondness for baseball.



THE EXTERIOR VIEW of St. Andrew's Church, at 1432 Engracia, in Torrance, highlights the inherent dignity of the edifice.

### LITTLE LEAGUERS

Father and son are "regulars" at local Little League games. Fr. Percy has been a Dodger fan since 1936, and the team's move to Los Angeles to him was a welcome one.

Charlotte Percy is the oldest child and she will graduate in June from Occidental College to commence graduate work at the University

of California in Berkeley. Her majors are comparative literature and languages.

Fr. Percy extends his service to people beyond his parish by serving as the auxiliary examining chaplain to the Bishop of Los Angeles, and as chairman of the Torrance Traffic Safety Council. He is former president of the Torrance Ministerial Assn.

## Radio Pastor To Speak

Guest speaker this morning at South Bay Church of Religious Science Affiliation will be Rev. Arthur Morrell.

Dr. Morrell's 15-year ministry includes churches in Mobile and Birmingham, Alabama and El Monte.

Research scientist at Los Angeles State College, Division of Science and Mathematics, he conducted an inspirational radio program over a four-state network for seven years.

Adult and junior services will be at 11 a.m. at the Masonic Temple, Catalina and Ruby Sts., Redondo Beach.

Carl Kludt will be in charge of the vocal music and Edward Sawtelle will be organist.

Preceding the regular Sunday services there will be a fifteen-minute period for meditation, with organ music. Coffee will be served after services. The public is invited.

On Easter Sunday two special presentations were made during the services by Mr. Kludt. A reference book, Bible Science and Meaning, was presented to Dr. Cloice E. Meyers, minister, by church members and an azalea bush was presented to Mrs. Myrtle Maier, by the First Year Study Course in Science of Mind, in appreciation of her hospitality

in opening her home to the class for its meetings.

Several members of the Women's Group met at the home of Mrs. Charles Snyder in Gardena, for a social afternoon on Wednesday, April 11.

Present were: Mes. Don Cambell, Grace Smith, Bernice Fetting, Joyce Hodges, Louella Albert, Myrtle Maier, Dora Harris and Snyder.

## Atonement To Be Topic Of Sermon

A Bible Lesson on the subject "Doctrine of Atonement" will be read this Sunday at 11 a.m. in First Church of Christ, Scientist, Torrance.

The Golden Text is from John (3:17): "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Related readings will include this passage: "Jesus' teaching and practice of Truth involved such a sacrifice as makes us admit its Principle to be Love" (Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy, p. 26).

### WORSHIP

### AT THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—Carson at Manuel. Rev. Robert Dehn. Church phone FA 8-5030; 9:15 and 10:45, morning worship; 9:15, nursery through 5th grade, 10:45 Jr. High through Adult Sunday School; 4:30 p.m. Training Union; 7:30 a.m. Evangelistic service; Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., mid-week service. Nursery care to every service.

NARBONNE AVENUE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH—24730 Narbonne Ave. Lomita. DA 6-6029. Church 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

### CATHOLIC

ST. CATHERINE LABOURE CHURCH—3846 Redondo Beach Blvd., Torrance. DAVIS 3-8900. Sunday Masses: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. Weekday Masses: 4:30 and 4:15. Confessions Saturday: 4:00 to 5:30, 7:30 to 9:00.

ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH—1900 Tullite Ave., Redondo Beach. Mon. Pastor Daniel P. Collins. Mass 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:15, 12:15. PR 5-6927.

### CHURCH OF GOD

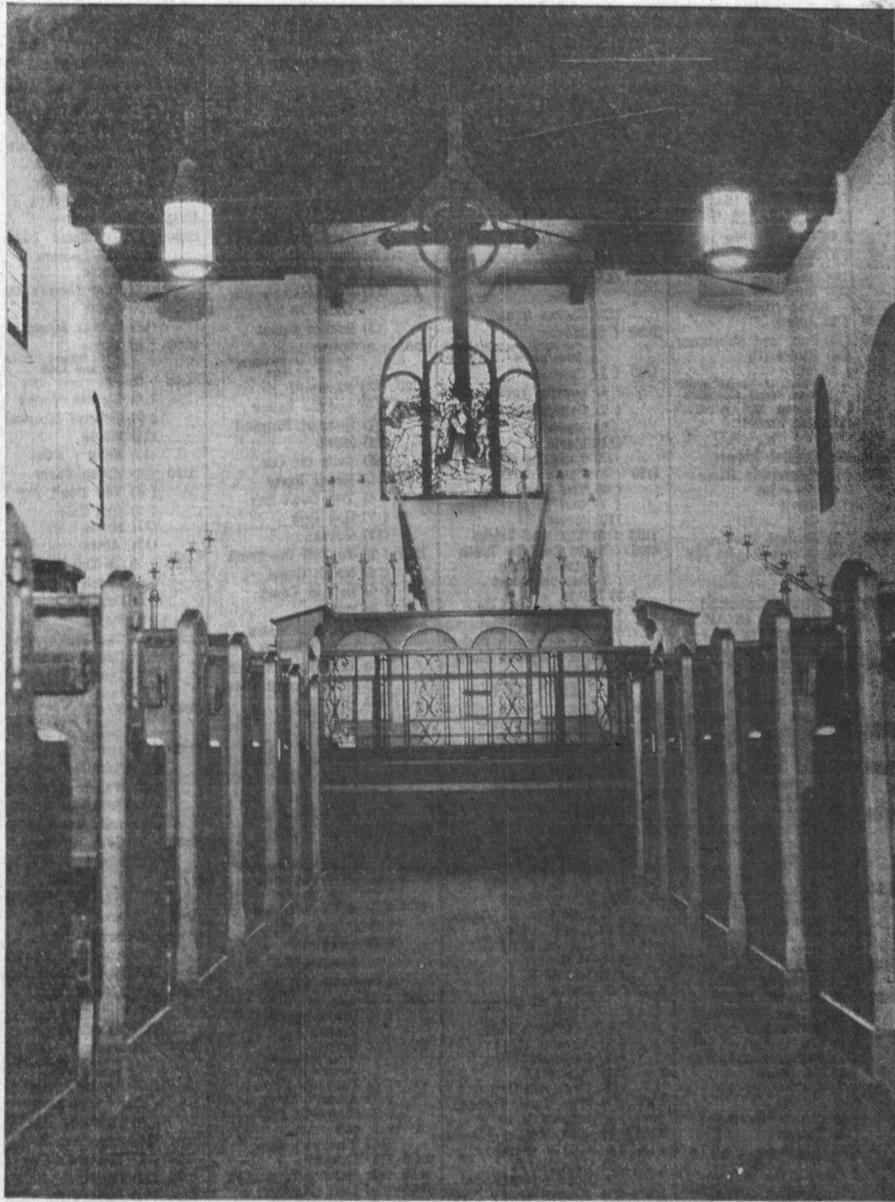
SOUTH BAY CHURCH OF GOD—17661 Yukon Ave. Phone 323-3970. Rev. C. L. Tierney. 17615 Yukon, Torrance. First morning service 8:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; second morning service, 11:15 a.m.; Sunday night service 7:30 p.m. Mid-week services, Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

### FOURSQUARE CHURCH

FOURSQUARE CHURCH—Corner of Arlington and Sepulveda. Telephone, DA 6-2072. Rev. and Mrs. James P. Lowen, pastors. Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; morning worship, 10:45 a.m.; group services, 4:00 p.m.; Y.P. Cadets (Defenders), Evangelistic, 7:15 p.m. Mid-week, Wednesday Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Public invited.

### LUTHERAN

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—Located on Carson St. and Flower Ave. in Torrance. Mrs. J. Rolander, pastor. Residence, 1625 Flower Ave. Phone FA 8-3249. Church office, 1723 Flower Ave. FA 0-4181. First Church worship 8 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.; second morning worship, 10:45 a.m.



THE INTERIOR VIEW of St. Andrew's Church, in Torrance, is dominated by the Cross and the colorful stained glass window poised eloquently above the altar. The church's capacity was doubled in 1957 and plans call for expansion again during the next three years. Press photos by William Schell Jr. and Gordon Akers.

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